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OCT 12 2001

2 MR. JOHNSTON: Well, basically, I'm Robert  
3 Johnston of Fallon, Nevada. I just happen to be the party  
4 chairman for the local Democratic party here in Fallon,  
5 but I'm also here as a concerned citizen, and also I am  
6 representing Senator Harry Reid, who sent me his comments  
7 this morning, and I'm asking that these be entered into  
8 the record in some form to make sure that people know that  
9 he is concerned about what goes on in the State of Nevada  
10 and especially in Churchill County.

11 As far as personal comments are concerned, I  
12 think it's way overdue that we need to look at this  
13 problem with the storage or repository, whatever you want  
14 to call it, or as one of our former illustrious senators  
15 called it, "the suppository." We won't make any comment  
16 on that.

17 I am really concerned about this. I've been a  
18 resident of Nevada now since 1960. I've lived in the Las  
19 Vegas area, I've also lived in the Smoky Valley area, as  
20 well as Fallon here. I was an Ag teacher for 30 years  
21 here, so I am very concerned, especially with the  
22 environmental aspects.

23 And one of the reasons I am concerned is

24 whenever we were at the Smoky Valley, we were out -- our  
25 folks were out there, we were on a ranch, and I know that  
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1 every time they had a test going on down in Mercury, we  
2 received notices in the mail and by phone from the test  
3 site down there saying: You may feel a slight trembler up  
4 here, but don't worry and don't report it as an  
5 earthquake; and these are the days we are going to conduct  
6 our tests.

7 And being interested in the agricultural area  
8 here, being into the geology and the formations, I've  
9 noticed how fractured our internal surface here is and our  
10 groundwork here, with our earthquake prone areas that we  
11 have. I know that we have a lot of fault lines here. And  
12 I do know for a fact that this area does -- with the fault  
13 lines they have, that gasses can be emitted and radiation  
14 and so on and so forth, can be emitted through that and  
15 transferred through that. Now to what extent, I don't  
16 know, but I just -- you know, these are just some of my  
17 own concerns.

18 Also, my primary concern is more of the  
19 transportation and the infrastructure that is in place  
20 here if we're going to transport materials through our

21 county and through our roads. I live on the main highway.

22 I live on the highway going south out of Fallon, and that

23 is the only major road going out.

24 And my daughter, being an EMT, she had to go

25 through the training where all the trucks were numbered,

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1 and she came down and we sat out one day and just looked

2 at the number of trucks that went by, and we were

3 surprised at the number of trucks that were hauling

4 hazardous materials according to the Code.

5 You know, from a personal point of view, I -- I

6 know that accidents will happen, and I just hope somewhere

7 along the line that we can address the infrastructure

8 going through the rural communities, as well as the major

9 cities, of which we have two, Las Vegas and Reno. But if

10 you're going to come in from somewhere, they're going to

11 have to travel through a lot of rural counties, too, and

12 that is one of my major concerns here.

13 And I don't know, I have a lot of feelings as to

14 the remarks that I get from people that comment to me,

15 they say, "Well, it's already a done deal. If we're going

16 to do it, let's just make money off of it." I'm sure

17 you've heard these comments before.

18           And I am not quite sure that I can agree with  
19 all the reasoning that these people have. Like I say, we  
20 all want to -- we all have the dollar signs and we all are  
21 interested in our economy. But basically, I think that we  
22 need to look down the line and have the concerns for our  
23 future generations and if we are putting them at risk,  
24 rather than the, you know, just the economic side.

25           So, I'm sure that the hearings will be fair and

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1 will be conducted -- like I say, I wasn't here for the  
2 last one; I planned on being here. I did attend the one  
3 in Las Vegas where senator -- Governor Guinn and Mayor  
4 Goodman were present and it was -- it was quite  
5 enlightening, to say the least. I won't make any comment  
6 on that, but I just thought it was quite enlightening,  
7 some of the comments that both of them made there.

8           And we are all concerned. And as Senator Reid  
9 addresses the issues -- he has been one of our bigger  
10 supporters, biggest supporters -- and I'm sure that you  
11 guys deal with him more than I do, on the basis I'm just  
12 his spokesman. But I thank you for your time, and Senator  
13 Reid thanks you for your time. End of comment.